issued to participating States to involve farmers at minor (canal) level through formation of Water Users' Associations. Management subsidy is provided to these Associations under the Programme. A series of Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management have been held at National, State and Project levels to create mass awareness among officials and farmers. Training courses on participatory process are being conducted for officers and farmers. States have been advised to form High Level Working Groups to consider policy issues and guidelines on participatory irrigation management. Action has been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare manuals in four regional languages. Work of preparing drafts of model amendments to irrigation acts in order to give legal status to farmers organisations is in progress. The Ministry of Water Resources has been vigorously disseminating information about Participatory Irrigation Management in various States and other countries to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Problems in Education

1483. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since received a memorandum dated July 12, 1996 from the All India Primary Teachers Federation regarding the problems of education in general and at primary level in particular; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the suggestions given by the All India Primary Teachers Federation on various matters contained in their memorandum dated July 12, 1996 have been kept in view by the Working Groups constituted by the Planning Commission while formulating proposals for the IX Five Year Plan. A number of suggestions are within the purview of State Governments.

Research on Texol

1484. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research or study had been undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the texol as an anti-cancer drug; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) No specific research has been conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research on Taxol an anti-cancer drug derived from the Himalayan yew Taxus baccata and T. Wallignana.

Increase in Population

1485. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of increase in population in the country has been on the rise;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to frame any law for controlling the population;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated increase of population in urban and rural areas respectively; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir. The annual exponential growth rate of population was 2.14% during 1981-91 as against 2.22% during 1971-81. According to the Sample Registration System figures of 1995 the natural increase of population is 1.93%.

(b) to (d) The National Family Welfare Programme is voluntary and the focus is on improvement in the quality of services so as to increase acceptance levels.

The actual and estimated increase of population for urban and rural are given as below :

Population in Millions

	Total	Rural	Urban
1981 (Census)	683.3	523.8	159.5
1991 (Census)	846.3	628.7	217.6
2001 (Projected)	1012.4	721.2	291.2

Availability of Ambulances

1486. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Vehicles carrying patients to death" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) total number of ambulances held by the Government hospitals in Delhi, hospital-wise and the number out of them in an obvious state of disrepair;

(d) whether in the event of CT scanner being out of order, the hospitals find it difficult to refer the patients particularly head injury cases to other hospitals; and